

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed February 27, 2006. Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12, 15-24, 26, 27, and 31-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being purportedly anticipated by Wall et al. (US 6,507,923) (hereinafter referred to as "Wall"). In addition, Claims 2, 6-9, 11, 13, 14, 25, and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in light of Wall and various other references cited in the Office Action. Further, various claims were objected to due to informalities. Finally, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for purportedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. By this amendment Claims 1-7, 9-12, 20, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 34, and 37 are amended, Claim 8 is cancelled, such that Claims 1-7 and 9-37 remain pending for examination. Reconsideration and allowance for the above-identified application are now respectfully requested in light of these remarks and the accompanying amendments.

For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action. Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

I. Claim Objections

Sections 1-6 of the Office Action rejected various claims as having informalities. Applicant has amended these claims as requested in the Office Action. Accordingly, the objections should be withdrawn.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Section 7 of the Office Action rejects Claim 8 as being non-enabled. In particular, the Office Action states that is unclear what the proper definition of an "XBI connector" is as this term is not defined in the specification. Applicant disagrees, but submits that this rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of Claim 8.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Section 8 of the Office Action rejects Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12, 15-24, 26, 27, and 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as purportedly being anticipated by Wall. Applicant disagrees, but has amended Claims 1, 12, 20, 34, and 37. These claims are now believed to be patentably distinct over the cited reference. Claims 3-5, 10, 15-19, 21-24, 26, 27, 31-33, and 35-36 variously depend from Claims 1, 12, and 20 and are thus patentable for at least the reasons Claims 1, 12 and 20 are patentable.

B. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

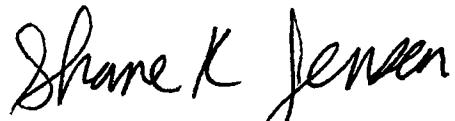
Sections 9-17 rejected Claims 2, 6-9, 11, 13, 14, 25, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in light of Wall and various other references cited in the Office Action. Applicants note that Claims 2, 6-7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 25, and 28-30 all variously depend from Claims 1, 12, and 20 and are thus patentable for at least the reasons that Claims 1, 12, and 20 are patentable. As noted, Claim 8 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes the claims as amended are in allowable form and that every issue raised by the Office Action has been addressed. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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